

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 18 and 20. Claims 17-20 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Claim 16 stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. In response, Applicants amended claim 16 to clarify that the movement of the contact member causes the texture, which comprises stripes of fine scratches that define a cross angle. For this reason, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moldovan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,566,224). In response, Applicants amended claim 1 to generally incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 18. Claim 15 is also amended to depend from claim 1. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as it applies to amended claim 1 and its depending claims 15-16.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 15-16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hammond (U.S. Patent No. 4,347,689). In response, Applicants amended claim 4 to generally incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 18, and respectfully traverse. Applicants traverse because Hammond fails to disclose the features now recited in amended independent claims 1, 4 and 15. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 15-16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 15-17, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,033,522). Applicants traverse the rejection as it applies to claims 1-2, 4-5, and 15-16 because claims 1 and 4 now include the allowable subject matter of claim 18. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 15-16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 15-17, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond in view of either Moldovan or Iwata. Applicants traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the §102 rejections of each of the references. More specifically, since none of references teach or suggest an urging force adjuster that adjusts the force of the contact roller against the substrate, by varying the urging force as described in the mathematical expression of independent claims 1, 4, and 15, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 15-16 is respectfully requested.

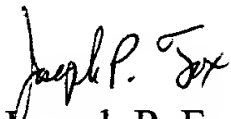
New claims 21-22 are added and define a texturing apparatus and method. Claim 21 defines a controller that controlling the drive and the urging force adjuster all along the radial direction and varies the urging force according to the mathematical equation defined in amended claims 1, 4 and 15. Claim 22 includes a step of controlling the rotation rate and the urging force all along the radial direction and also varies the urging force according to the mathematical expression in amended claims 1, 4 and 15. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claims 21-22.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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